



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & INJURY PREVENTION SYSTEM  
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In reply, please refer to :

To Whom It May Concern:

The Comfort Care Only Bill was passed by the Hawaii State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. Beginning July 1, 1995, patients who are diagnosed terminally ill can, **if they wish**, obtain and wear a "COMFORT CARE ONLY" I.D. bracelet or necklace. Then, should they stop, or are about to stop breathing, they will receive comfort care such as oxygen, medication for pain, suctioning of oral secretions, and other comfort measures, but they will **NOT** receive resuscitation efforts (i.e., rescue breathing, chest compressions, electric shocks, or medications intended to try to restart the heart). **This is a completely voluntary decision that the terminally ill patient can make if he or she wants to.** This new law allows terminally ill patients a means to pass away, when their time comes, in as much comfort as possible, with their dignity intact and without having to endure the pain, distress and expense of prolonging their death.

Please take note that this CCO law is **NOT** the same thing as a living will. A living will works for patients in hospitals and nursing homes, but would **not be effective in the prehospital setting for ambulance personnel and rescuers.** Therefore, paramedics would still have to attempt to resuscitate a patient who has a living will. However, if the patient is wearing a "Comfort Care Only" I.D. bracelet or necklace, they will receive comfort care but not resuscitation.

Hawaii's physicians have already started receiving information about the new "Comfort Care Only" law. If you would like to know more about how the "Comfort Care Only" law can help you, please discuss it with your physician. If he or she is not familiar with it they can contact the EMS & IP System Branch by calling (808) 733-9210 or writing to the following address:

CCO-DNR Information  
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